into planning and priority setting for NTP and NIEHS as he met with more than 60 representatives of government (federal, state, and county), industry, labor, academia, environmental organizations, local citizens groups, and Congressional aides. They met in March at the National Institutes of Health campus in Bethesda, Maryland. Olden spoke of his fundamental goal to make his organizations responsive to the needs of the American people. "In my view, programs supported by public funds should be accountable to the public," Olden said. In inviting attendees, Olden said, "It has become very clear that both the number of toxicological tests carried out by the NTP and the base of research related to the testing must be expanded. Therefore, I invite you to participate in an effort to explore the formation of national partnerships to meet future needs."

Discussion focused on three topics: how research and testing priorities are determined, what kinds of partnerships can be developed, and how to communicate research and testing results to the public. A number of participants emphasized their reliance on NTP study results. Rebecca Head, of Michigan's Washtenaw County Environmental Services Office, noted that officials in her state, "hang our hats" on NTP data as she called for studies of a broader range of health effects. Carol Henry, of the California Environmental Protection Agency, stated that there are many chemicals for which there is little or no scientific data. She suggested giving priority to high-volume chemicals that are transported in quantities and are therefore more likely to be spilled.

Roger McClellan, president of the Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology, said, "The issue is how toxicology testing relates to toxicologic evaluation and ultimately to human risk assessment. We need to build partnerships to better this process." McClellan also noted the importance of testing problem chemicals, not just new or unknown ones.

Themes repeated throughout the meeting were that communication is the key to partnerships, to allow the input of ideas and to improve access to NTP data, and that information needs to be easier to obtain and more user friendly and accessible. Patricia Bauman, of the Bauman Foundation, suggested that an advisory committee on communication might provide NIEHS and NTP with feedback on the public's need for information.

The question of how to fund toxicology testing generated discussion and ideas. Kay Kiker, citizen activist from York, Alabama, raised the issue of using some portion of the fines levied on industry for this important research. Eula Bingham, of the University of Cincinnati, suggested a tax on heavily used chemicals, and Gilbert Omenn, of the University of Washington, proposed retroactive fines that might be levied on companies under the Toxic Substances Control Act to fund government studies. Discussion of the issue of who should pay for studies ended far from any agreement or plan. Concern was raised about potential conflict of interest in government–industry cost sharing, along with the need for NTP to remain in the position of what several termed the "honest broker." However, it was pointed out that partnerships do not have to be based on money.

Plans are underway to follow up the March 11 meeting by convening smaller groups to offer specific advice on how to implement some of the suggestions offered by workshop participants. Olden stated that working together is the real way to succeed, and he plans to continue to explore ways to form partnerships with the many concerned segments of society.

Input sought. Representatives from government, industry, academia, and local citizen groups met in March to discuss priorities for NIEHS and NTP.

NTP Requests Recommendations for Chemical Testing

The National Toxicology Program is soliciting recommendations for chemicals, chemical classes, and biological issues to be tested for toxicity studies. NTP coordinates U.S. Department of Health and Human Services activities in characterizing the toxicity of chemicals and is made up of toxicology research groups within NIEHS, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, and FDA. NTP supports research and testing to increase the spectra of toxicologic information on selected chemicals and to develop testing assays and protocols.

Chemicals are selected for testing on the basis of data and information needs of NTP member agencies, other government agencies, and in response to public concerns regarding safety and health effects of specific chemicals or chemical classes. The NTP investigates a number of biological effects including *in vivo* metabolism and disposition, reproductive and developmental toxicity, genetic toxicity, immunotoxicity, neurotoxicity, general toxicity, and carcinogenicity. The results of the NTP studies are used by federal and state research and regulatory agencies as well as private sector organizations and are made available to the public in the form of technical reports and in the scientific literature.

There is no time limit for nominating chemicals and biological issues for examination. NTP will consider each nomination as it is received; however, available resources limit the number of chemicals tested. Send all nominations and relevant background information on the chemical or issue to B.A. Schwetz, Environmental Toxicology Program, NIEHS, PO Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

Negro-Vilar to Join Wyeth-Ayerst

Andres Negro-Vilar, who for six years has been chief of the NIEHS Laboratory of Molecular and Integrative Neurosciences, has accepted a new position as vice-president, Wyeth-Ayerst Research, and Head of

the Women's Health Institute located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Negro-Vilar has also served as the NIEHS clinical director since 1991, contributing greatly to the Institute's initiatives in clinical research programs.


Andres Negro-Vilar

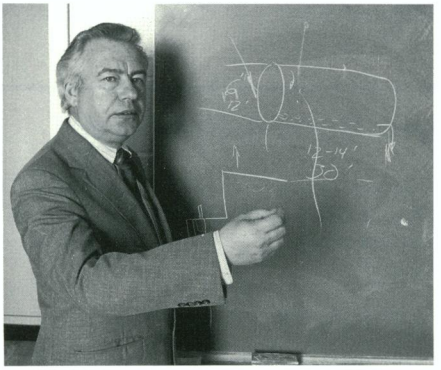
"His tenure has been marked by continued growth in our program and major advances in our science," said John McLachlan, NIEHS scientific director. McLachlan pointed out that the institute plans to continue and expand the institute's portfolio in neurosciences and clinical research related to the environment. A nationwide search will be conducted to fill leadership positions in these areas.

Doull and Clarkson among Those Honored with Society of Toxicology Awards

John Doull received the Society of Toxicology's highest award, the SOT Merit Award, at the SOT annual meeting, March 14–18 in New Orleans. The award is given in recognition of a distinguished career in toxicology. Doull is a professor of pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, and his service on the NIH Toxicology Study Section and the NIEHS Advisory Council are among his many contributions to the field. He chaired the Panel on Chemical Carcinogenesis Testing and Evaluation, whose report became the working guidelines for the National Toxicology Program.

Thomas W. Clarkson received the prestigious Arnold J. Lehman Award at the annual SOT meeting. Clarkson is chair of the Department of Environmental Medicine at the University of Rochester, where he is also the director of an NIEHS Environmental Health Sciences Center that he was instrumental in establishing in 1975.

The Lehman Award is presented by the SOT to recognize major contributions to the control of chemical agents including pharmaceuticals. Clarkson is internationally recognized for his research on heavy metal toxicity, particularly mercury, and for his use of research data to develop quantitative assessments of risk from metal exposure to humans. Clarkson's studies have yielded important new information on the pharmacokinetics, toxicity, and metabolism of mercury compounds in both laboratory animals and humans. The Rochester group, for example, demonstrated the excretion of mercury through bile


Arnold J. Lehman Award winner. Thomas W. Clarkson was recognized for his work with mercury.

and subsequently identified polythol resins as a means of enhancing the rate of mercury excretion. This therapy was used in treating a massive outbreak of mercury poisoning in Iraq. Clarkson's work has been fundamental in regulations related to mercury.

Other major SOT awards presented to scientists affiliated with NIEHS were:

Harihara Mehendale, of Northeast Louisiana University, received an ICI Traveling Lectureship. He has been a visiting scientist and staff fellow at NIEHS.

Richard E. Peterson and colleagues at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, NIEHS grantees, received the Frank R. Blood Award, presented for the best article published in the two official SOT publications during the previous year, for their article, "*In Utero* and Lactational Exposure of Male Rats to 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin," published in *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology*.

David L. Eaton, professor of environmental health and associate chairman, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Washington, received the SOT Achievement Award for young toxicologists (under 41 years of age). He holds several NIH research grants and serves as principal investigator on an NIEHS Superfund Program Project grant.

Curtis E. Klaassen, of the University of Kansas Medical Center, received the SOT Education Award for teaching and training toxicologists and making significant contributions to education in the broad field of toxicology. Klaassen serves on the National Toxicology Program Board of Scientific Councilors and is the chair of the NTP Technical Report Review Subcommittee.

Other Appointments and Awards

Max Costa has been appointed chair of the Department of Environmental Medicine at New York University Medical Center and director of the Nelson Institute of Environmental Medicine, an integral part of the department. He succeeds Arthur C. Upton, who retired in 1992. With his appointment, Costa will also serve as director of the NIEHS Environmental Health Sciences Center at New York University Medical Center..

Albert Munson, of the Medical College of Virginia, has received the 1993 Virginia Outstanding Scientist award. Munson is an NIEHS training grant director and serves on the Environmental Health Sciences Review Committee.

Leona Samson, of Harvard University, and Debra Laskin, of Rutgers University, both NIEHS grantees, each received a Burroughs Wellcome Fellows Award.

The BASF Corporation Agricultural Product Group has announced a gift of $150,000 in support of toxicology programs at North Carolina State University. The money will be used in the Department of Toxicology of the College of Agriculture and Life Science to support environmental toxicology programs. Members of the department have had a long-time affiliation with NIEHS, as grantees, research collaborators, and members of various committees and boards.